

The petition to allow automatic upgrades from Novice to Technician and Advanced to Amateur Extra is faulty in several regards. The notion that being licensed for 20 years and having "20 years operating experience" is the same thing is wrong. It is just as possible that a person licensed for 20 years has been inactive during that period. Licensing for 20 years does not in any way insure 20 years of operating experience. Further, the procedure for license upgrading is now so easy one has to wonder why any amateur with an interest in upgrading hasn't already done so. In the case of Amateur Extra there is a large "knowledge gap" between the question pool on the old Advanced exam and the present Amateur Extra exam. To allow an upgrade to Amateur Extra from Advanced without taking the exam bypasses any demonstration that the person possesses the knowledge and skill level necessary to hold this license class. My strong opinion is to leave well enough alone, the system as it now exists seems to be working.